

June 2005

Temperature: After the coolest spring in more than 20 years in Washington, the first month of meteorological summer brought a sharp change of above normal temperatures to the Washington/Baltimore area. Monthly departures were +1.2°F at DCA, +1.8°F, BWI, and +2.7°F, IAD, marking the 4th month in 2005 with warmer than normal readings. Many locations recorded their first 90°F on the 6th (DCA on the 8th) including a record tying 92°F at IAD. All three major airports recorded 6 days with highs at or above 90°F with DCA's highest reading of the season to date of 94°F on the 28th, accompanied by oppressive humidity and heat indices reaching 100°F. Maryland recorded two fatalities on the 14th from excessive heat and humidity, according to press reports. The longest period of heat and humidity occurred from the 25th-28th when IAD observed highs above 90°F. DCA and BWI recorded a total of 17 days (IAD, 16 days) with highs 80°F or greater. In sharp contrast, the months' chilliest readings occurred on the 2nd and 3rd when clouds and rainfall held temperatures in the 60's.

Precipitation: Monthly precipitation totals were highly variable due to localized thunderstorms. Portions of Loudoun County, VA, recorded less than 2" (IAD's 1.92" was more than 2" below normal) while BWI's 3.64" exceeded its monthly normal by 0.31"; DCA's 2.87" was 0.26" below normal. Three major storm systems impacted the area in June. The first storm reflected a lingering pattern from spring of steady chilly rain, which brought .50" to .75" to most locations on the 3rd. The second significant storm system on the 6th reflected a more typical summer pattern with several lines of thunderstorms striking the area. Numerous reports of severe weather were observed with wind damage the primary result. Winds gusted to 72 mph in Asburn, VA (Loudoun County) 68 mph in Hickory, MD (Harford County) and 64 mph in Northwest D.C. The high winds knocked down trees and caused power outages, according to press report. Rainfall was heavy with almost an inch and a half (1.43") measured at BWI and exactly an inch at DCA. The storms continued to be severe into the early morning hours on the 7th, with hail nearly 1" in diameter measured in La Plata, MD (Charles County).

Tranquil conditions then prevailed in most areas with little rainfall until the 29th. Two exceptions were isolated strong thunderstorms on the 9th, causing flash flooding in Lisbon, MD (Howard County) that led to a water rescue when numerous streets were closed. On the 28th, strong to severe thunderstorms impacted Carroll and Baltimore counties. One fatality occurred in the city of Baltimore when thunderstorms produced localized flooding near a stream and swept away a 17 year old male, according to press reports. The next day, thunderstorms brought damaging winds, hail and heavy rain across the area. For the second day in June, DCA recorded more than an inch of rain (1.03"). Severe weather was reported across Northern Virginia, Frederick and Montgomery Counties, MD, with ¾" hail measured in Leesburg, VA, while high winds knocked down power lines near Thurmont and in Germantown, MD.

JUNE 2005 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In.)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to Date
National (DCA)	84.2	67.1	75.7	74.5	+1.3	94/28	57/1	2.87	3.13	-0.26	21.21
Baltimore (BWI)	83.6	63.5	73.6	71.8	+1.8	92/8	51/1	3.74	3.43	+0.31	20.73
Dulles (IAD)	84.5	62.8	73.6	70.9	+2.7	93/28	51/18 ¹	1.92	4.07	+2.15	19.60

Other Occurrences: ¹21

Looking Ahead to July: Some noteworthy historical July statistics:

With the first month of summer behind us, we look at July, the climatologically hottest month of the year in Washington. Below are some noteworthy July statistics for Washington, D.C. (At DCA: Normal Average Temperature: 79.2°F; Normal Monthly Precipitation: 3.66")

Temperature

Hottest: 1993 (Avg. Temp: 83.1°F)
 Coolest: 1891 (Avg. Temp: 72.0°F)
 Most 90°F+ days: 24 (1987 & 1993)
 Fewest 90°F+ days: 0 (1891)
 Most 100°F+ days: 6 (1930)
 Longest consecutive period of 90°F days: 16 (July 3-18, 1993)
 Longest consecutive period of 100°F+ days: 4 (July 19-22, 1930)
 Record monthly high: 106°F (July 20, 1930)*
 Record monthly low: 52°F (July 4, 1919 & July 31, 1895)

Precipitation

Wettest: 1945 (Precipitation Total: 11.06")
 Driest: 1872 (Precipitation Total: 0.82")
 Record daily rainfall: 4.69" (July 9, 1970)

* All-time highest reading in Washington (tied with Aug. 6, 1918)